

In the claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus for use by a wireless device in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one of the access points, comprising:

logic for associating the wireless device with a current access point on one channel;

logic for ascertaining, by the wireless device, whether the wireless device should attempt to associate with an access point operating on another channel, the ascertaining logic operating at least in-part on indications of signal strengths of transmissions from the current and alternative access points; and;

logic for requesting association with the access point operating on ~~another~~ the alternative channel if it is ascertained that the wireless device should attempt to associate with said alternative access point.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising: logic for automatically collecting, by the wireless device, information about access points operating on other channels.

3. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the logic for ascertaining ascertains that the wireless device should attempt to associate with the alternative ~~another~~ access point operating on said different channel if the alternative access point on said different channel is closer than the current access point.

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the logic for ascertaining ascertains that the alternative access point on said different channel is closer than the current access point by:

calculating a first biased distance between the wireless device and the current access point based on "x" samples;

calculating a second biased distance between the wireless device and the alternative access point ~~operating on said another channel~~ based on "y" samples where "y" is less than "x";
and

ascertaining that the alternative access point ~~operating on said another channel~~ is closer than the current access point if the second biased distance is less than the first biased distance.

5. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the logic for requesting association requests association by sending a message to the access point operating on said another channel.